

But we have also seen terrorists take advantage of other holes in our laws. The nineteen hijackers on September 11, 2001 had fraudulently obtained dozens of American visas, passports and driver's licenses, documents used to open bank accounts, establish residency, and yes to fly airplanes. This border security legislation provides the safety measure, that to obtain a driver's license, one of the most commonly used forms of identification in the United States, a person must simply prove they have the legal right to remain in our nation.

For the safety and security of this nation, our families, and most of all our freedom, I urge my colleagues to support these common-sense proposals. The 9-11 commission recommended these ideas, and we owe it to the victims of that national tragedy to pass this legislation. If we fail to do so and another terrorist attack occurs on our soil then we will all be held accountable.

INTRODUCING THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Congressmen RAMSTAD and KENNEDY in introducing the bipartisan, bicameral "Keeping Families Together Act." This bill would help parents obtain necessary mental health treatment for their severely emotionally disturbed children without being forced to relinquish them into State custody to get that care. Senators SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) and MARK PRYOR (D-AK) are introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

No family should be required to relinquish legal custody of their mentally ill child to a State child welfare agency or the juvenile justice system as their only means of obtaining desperately needed mental health services. Yet as Maryland resident Diana Miller recounted to me last year, State officials gave her this exact ultimatum when she sought potentially life-saving mental health care for her daughter, Erica.

Tragically, Diana and Erica Miller are not alone in their predicament. In April 2003, the GAO reported that parents in 19 States placed over 12,700 children in State child welfare or juvenile justice agencies in 2001 to obtain mental health services for them. We know that the nationwide number is even higher because 31 States did not respond to the survey.

According to GAO, these middle class parents find themselves trapped between not having the resources to pay for private mental health care and making too much money for their children to be eligible for Medicaid. Parents are therefore forced to choose between not treating their child's severe illness and transferring custody to the State, which has the resources to provide the necessary care. Families wind up torn apart at the expense of the taxpayers.

A Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law further elaborated on the situations that cause parents and guardians to give up their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies. These situations include the following:

The family has either exhausted their private health insurance benefits, or their benefits do not cover required mental health services (e.g. Residential Treatment Program).

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which Medicaid services do not adequately address mental health needs, and agency placement provides access or priority status for entry into needed care.

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which children are deprived of federally mandated mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of an exceedingly restrictive definition of serious emotional illness. That is, these schools often label these children as solely "discipline problems."

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which the local child welfare system erroneously interprets Federal law (Title IV-E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring relinquishment of custody even for temporary out-of-home placements.

As all of these reports highlight, families are acting out of desperation to get immediately needed mental health services for their children. The juvenile justice and child welfare systems have become the mental health providers of last resort for far too many families.

Both the child welfare system and juvenile justice systems are ill-equipped to meet these children's needs. Even worse, the psychological bond between parent and child is unnecessarily disrupted. Their children feel abandoned and their parents feel guilty over turning their parental rights and decisionmaking authority to a State agency.

The stigma is real to families themselves and to those around them. Good parents don't have their children taken away. But, in fact, the need to relinquish custody in these instances doesn't have anything to do with parenting skills. It has everything to do with our system being broken and continuing to allow these children with significant mental health needs to fall through the cracks.

We have known about this problem for many years. In fact, I first introduced legislation in 1995 attempting to address this issue. Since then I have been working with my colleagues to educate the public and other members of Congress about this issue and to find a bipartisan solution.

Our legislation, the "Keeping Families Together Act" is the result of this bipartisan and bicameral process. Our bill provides new funding to States that are willing to develop systems that assure these children get the mental health services they need without pulling apart their families.

It provides \$55 million over 6 years in new family support grants to States that are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and cover all these children's mental health services under Medicaid, CHIP or any other health program of their choosing. These monies can then be used to improve access to mental health and family support services that keep families together. They can also be used to create Statewide care coordination programs and to deliver mental health care and family support services for these families.

Additionally, the bill establishes a Federal interagency task force. The task force will monitor the family support grants and work with representatives of affected families to make recommendations to Congress to improve mental health services and to foster

interagency cooperation. The task force is also required to provide biannual reports to Congress on its progress in improving the delivery of mental health services to seriously ill children.

The bill also provides States with the option of moving children out of hospital-based psychiatric care and into home- and community-based care options, which will allow them to remain with their families.

The "Keeping Families Together Act" is an important first step toward eliminating child custody relinquishment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation so States can develop innovative new programs that address these children's mental health needs while keeping their families together. Once we've learned what has effectively worked at the State level to restructure these programs, we will need to return to this issue at the Federal level and enact broad legislation to end the practice of forced child custody relinquishment nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO ADA'S GIVE KIDS A SMILE PROJECT

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, on Friday, February 4, the American Dental Association marshaled thousands of dentists and other volunteers across the country to provide dental services to hundreds of thousands of children who otherwise would not receive them.

The year 2005 marks the third consecutive year for the ADA's Give Kids A Smile/National Children's Dental Access Day, a project the ADA and its 152,000 member dentists are committed to continuing until the nation's most vulnerable children have access to proper dental care.

In what former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher called a "silent epidemic," millions of American children suffer with painful, disfiguring and preventable dental disease. They cannot eat or sleep properly, cannot pay attention in school, cannot smile. They deserve better.

ADA, its corporate partners and the thousands of individuals who participate in Give Kids A Smile are determined to wake the nation up to the extent and severity of untreated dental disease among disadvantaged children. I urge every member of this House to join them in that effort. One important way we can do that is to show our support by attending one or more Give Kids A Smile events in our home districts. You may be dismayed by the conditions some of these children live with, but you'll also be inspired by the spirit, energy and generosity of your constituent volunteers.

Please contact your state or local dental association and show your support for Give Kids A Smile. Your doing so will lend momentum to the quest for long-term solutions and be a wonderful inspiration to the volunteers.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-
SECESSION LAW**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my grave concern over China's proposed anti-secession law. This highly provocative law greatly increases the risk of a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, it assumes China and Taiwan are now unified, and it gives China the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China may use force to push for unification with Taiwan, a scenario we all must work to prevent. This law would have serious consequences for relations between China and Taiwan, and it would threaten stability in the region.

In my district, Idaho State University has developed a unique program, the only program of its kind in the United States, to provide a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they have repeatedly expressed their country's desire to avoid confrontation with China. These students look to the United States as a model of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or anytime in the future. I urge the Chinese leaders to reject the anti-secession law, and I hope the international community will join us in voicing their disapproval of this provocative and dangerous law. Inaction by the United States will only serve to encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric and belligerent action against the democratic Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRAL
BRANCH OF THE ST. LOUIS PUB-
LIC LIBRARY**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. I am extremely honored to commend them for being recognized as one of the 12 most beautiful and historic libraries in the world. They further hold the distinction as being only one of three U.S. libraries chosen for this honor.

The Central Library building is one of St. Louis's architectural treasures. Architect Cass Gilbert who was the architect for the Saint Louis Art Museum, the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, and the Woolworth Building in New York City was selected to design the building, which opened in 1912.

The Central Branch occupies one city block and features beautiful stained glass windows, hand-stenciled ceilings and glass floors. The exterior of the building is granite with marble panels and relief carvings, decorative medallions, notable authors and inspirational inscriptions. The Periodical Room's carved ceiling is

adapted from Michelangelo's design for the ceiling of the Laurentian Library in Florence and boasts more than 800 current magazines and newspapers.

While an architectural marvel, the library also assists the community with bridging the link between all cultures and nationalities by providing special services to Bosnian, African, Hispanic, German and Asian members of the community through extensive access to books and films in their own language. The Library is also involved in community outreach efforts providing book services to day care and senior centers. It also provides the gift of reading to those who are home-bound by operating bookmobiles and sending books through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library has been recognized for its historic beauty and architectural wonder, and its commitment to serving an ever changing landscape of cultures and nationalities; it deserves to be honored for its vital role in educating the leaders of tomorrow.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM D. PAYNE**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man whose many achievements I am proud to recognize today, the Honorable William D. Payne. Assemblyman Payne was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Rutgers University, Bill began his professional career with the Essex County Welfare Board as a caseworker. His commitment to public service commenced during his tenure as a caseworker and continues today.

Bill's involvement in politics started long before his career in the New Jersey Legislature. As the chairman of the Payne Congressional Campaign Committee in 1988, Bill successfully led the effort to elect his brother, DONALD, to the United States House of Representatives. This was not only a victory for the Payne family, but one for the African American community of New Jersey as well. DONALD PAYNE was the first African-American elected to represent New Jersey in the House of Representatives.

Bill has held several positions that exemplify his devotion to his community. As executive director of One to One New Jersey, Bill oversaw a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging volunteerism and mentoring among New Jersey adults. The participants in the program worked to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged youths and their families.

His commitment to the Essex County community was evident during his tenure with the Essex County Improvement Authority and the Newark Housing Authority, the country's 8th largest public agency. Bill has also donated his time to the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, the United

Negro College Fund Corporation Committee and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Small Business Advisory Council.

Prior to his election to the New Jersey General Assembly, Bill had transitioned into the private sector, establishing William Payne and Associates. Having an extensive background in community service, international government relations and the corporate world; Assemblyman Payne's company specializes in government relations and marketing.

In 1998, William Payne reached the pinnacle moment of his career, when he was elected to represent the 29th Legislative District of New Jersey. Bill holds many positions within the legislature including Commissioner of the Amistad Commission. This commission is a result of his diligent efforts to pass The Amistad Act, a law which requires the inclusion of African-American history in the year-round curriculum for New Jersey's public schools.

The County of Essex and I are far from the first to recognize the many accomplishments of Assemblyman Payne. He has been honored by many community organizations including The Jaycees, the NAACP, The North Ward Cultural Center and the Newark Board of Education to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Bill Payne. I ask that you join our colleagues, Bill's family and friends, the great County of Essex, New Jersey and me in recognizing Assemblyman William D. Payne for his long history of leadership and community service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JO ANN DAVIDSON**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson has been selected to serve as the co-chairman of the national Republican Party; and,

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson was the first woman to serve as Speaker of the Ohio House, maintained a 20 year career in the Ohio House, and was a driving force behind the passage of a complex electricity deregulation bill in 1999; and

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson should be commended for her work during the grassroots efforts of the 2004 Ohio Republican Party campaign in the Ohio Valley region.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Jo Ann Davidson for her outstanding appointment.

LEADER IN EDUCATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas, of Fresno California. Dr. Mehas has been Fresno